

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS  
OF RED CROSS MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 16, 2010*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, since 1943 Americans have celebrated the month March as Red Cross Month. I am proud to continue this tradition and recognize the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross' mission and the dedication of its volunteers.

The American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland, which has its headquarters on Euclid Avenue, does a tremendous job serving the community. The Cleveland chapter improves the quality of lives through emergency preparedness, responding to disasters with humanitarian aid, and providing health and safety training.

When a recent explosion on West 83rd left several families with nothing, the Greater Cleveland Red Cross stepped in and opened a temporary housing facility for them. It then joined with local residents to raise funds and accept donations. That situation demonstrates our Red Cross' responsiveness to community needs and compassion for Americans.

I'd like to congratulate Mary-Alice Frank, CEO of the Greater Cleveland Chapter, David Plate, CEO of the Northern Ohio Blood Services, and Richard W. Vogue, Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Chapter's Board of Directors, on their stewardship of the American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland.

I am equally proud of the Red Cross on the national level. Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, the first woman to be selected as Chairman in the organization's 126-year history, and Gail J. McGovern, the President and CEO, are doing an outstanding job in furthering the goals of the organization. As its mission states, the Red Cross continuously provides relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. These goals deserve recognition and celebration all year.

HONORING DR. ANTHONY BROWN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Dr. Anthony Brown of Madison.

Anthony was indeed larger than his own life. The gift of love and compassion that he tirelessly bequeathed to all of us during his lifetime is one that can be passed on and passed down forever. He taught us to believe in the power of one to make a difference and more importantly, he showed us by bringing joy and purpose to others every single day. His legacy transcends time, place, person, and death. We are all better for knowing Anthony, for having him in our community, and for feeling his radiant affection for all people.

It would be impossible to recite the countless professional achievements and accomplishments that he accumulated throughout a career without end. To Anthony, his work was

never done and that mindset permeated his every action.

He was the epitome of a brother's keeper and embodied all that we strive for in a community of shared responsibility. No matter one's color, creed, or station in life, Anthony was never satisfied until the least among us was given the helping hand we all too often take for granted. While Anthony's spirit of uplifting love and generosity will live on in each of us and all those with whom we share it, the memories of our cherished moments with him will only live on in our thoughts and prayers.

For me, that moment came the day before the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. When I was fortunate enough to be able to present Anthony and Brenda with an invitation to attend, I was met with tears of gratitude. For Anthony and millions more around the world, this was not simply a celebration of a new American leader. It was the realization of a dream told decades ago. It was only fitting for Anthony to be a part of something that he had a hand in creating.

My condolences to Anthony's friends and family could never repay the debt of gratitude we owe Anthony for all he has done for us. All I can say is thank you.

COMMENDING OUR ALLY,  
AZERBAIJAN**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to highlight the small country of Azerbaijan, wedged between Russia and Iran, on the Western shore of the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan has now been an Independent Republic for the longest time period in its history—nearly 20 years. The Region contains oil and gas resources equivalent to those of Saudi Arabia, and Azerbaijan owns one-third of the oil and gas deposits in the Region. Their main oil pipeline runs from the capital city, Baku, through Georgia and Turkey, and out to the Turkish Port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea. An important oil customer of theirs is Israel. Azerbaijan is a Muslim country that has practiced complete religious tolerance for hundreds of years, with some five Jewish Temples in Baku alone. And of major importance, Azerbaijan has provided troops to support our military efforts in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Between 1991 and 1993, Azerbaijan was locked in a conflict with surrounding countries. A brutal act during the conflict happened at the Azerbaijani village of Khojaly in February 1992, when women, children, and old people were killed. Therefore, February is an especially emotional time for the people of Azerbaijan.

With the help of the government of Russia, a cease-fire was negotiated in this war in 1994, leaving 16 percent of Azerbaijan, including the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, occupied by Armenian forces. Since that time, the Minsk Group of OSCE has played the lead negotiating role in attempting to bring about a solution to this situation, encouraged by numerous international resolutions including five in the United Nations.

Today, some 18 years after Khojaly, there is a glimmer of hope. President Ilham Aliyev of

Azerbaijan has been meeting regularly with President Sargsyan of Armenia, and in a recent weekend spent with President Medvedev of Russia, it was reported that the two Presidents worked on a Preamble to an agreement that will take great political courage for both of them. It is important that we give them our encouragement and make sure that our actions with respect to the Region support this historic agreement.

CONGRATULATING AND SUPPORT-  
ING KAZAKHSTAN FOR ITS NEW  
AND VITAL ROLE AS CHAIR OF  
THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE  
SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION  
OF EUROPE (OSCE)**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate Kazakhstan for its new role as chair of the Organization for the Security and Co-operation of Europe, OSCE, and to let this serve as a reminder to the world that emerging democracies do in fact have an important and pivotal role to play on the global stage.

As we approach the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki accords, a historic declaration by OSCE member states seeking to improve relations and foster dialogue between the West and the communist countries of the time, it seems duly appropriate to recognize the importance of Kazakhstan's new chairmanship since it is the first former Soviet state, the first CIS member, and the first central Asian country to assume such a role in the 56-member organization.

This past September, I commended Kazakhstan's President Nazarbayev for almost 20 years of vision and leadership in transforming the former Soviet republic into an emerging and thriving democratic society. The unanimous endorsement by all OSCE member states for the chairmanship by Kazakhstan only reinforces these enormous and positive steps forward by this young democracy from its former Soviet roots.

As a result, Kazakhstan and its neighbors have seen progress in regional security as Astana has emerged as both a regional and global leader on the non-proliferation and disarmament front, and its citizens have seen vast improvements to their daily lives as their country emerges as a regional economic leader. Furthermore, Kazakhstan has established itself as a strong ally and strategic partner to the United States fighting the global war on terror and especially playing an active role to ensure stability and security in Afghanistan.

As one of its first acts as a society free from Soviet rule, President Nazarbayev positioned Kazakhstan to be a leader in nonproliferation by shutting down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, dismantling its nuclear and missile arsenal, which was the world's fourth largest at the time, and safely getting rid of, according to the president himself, 104 intercontinental missiles from the Soviet Union that were each tipped with 10 nuclear warheads.

This was not an easy decision considering the potential influence that such an arsenal could yield both in the region and the globe,